

Council Highlights

February 2, 1996
Roger T. Kimura MD, Secretary

The HMA Council was called to order by HMA President Carl Lehman MD at 5:32 p.m.

Present: Officers: Drs. J. Spangler, President-elect; L. Howard, Treasurer; F. Holschuh; Immediate Past President; AMA Delegates: C. Kam, R. Stodd; County Presidents: P. Blanchette, Honolulu; T. Crane, Kauai; T. Smith, West Hawaii; Councilors: T. Au, D. Canete, P. DeMare, M. Shirasu, K. Thorburn, W. Young, J. Betwee, P. Kim, C. Kadooka; Past Presidents: W. Chang, W. Dang, A. Don, G. Goto, J. Lumeng, J. McDonnell; Young Physician Delegate: C. Goto; HMA Alliance: C. Gutteling, S. Spangler.

HMA Staff: J. Asato, J. Estioko, P. Kawamoto, B. Kendro, J. Won, A. Rogness, recording secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 5 meeting were approved as circulated.

- Dr Lehman reported the Finance and Pension Committees will be meeting together this year, and it might become a combined committee; a bylaws change would be necessary. He attended a Governor's luncheon with two Mayo Clinic physicians. The Hawaii Health Council met on January 22 and each Council member is working on which issues they consider to be most important. He will be attending a Hawaii Bar Association meeting on dispute resolutions. He received a thank-you letter from Thomas Reppun MD, who requested a copy of the memorial resolution presented at the HMA House of Delegates for his father, Fred Reppun MD.

- The HMA Alliance reported: They have been working on the issue of domestic violence and a banner is almost completed. Doctors' Day is on March 30, a proclamation will be signed by the Governor and the annual gift of first-aid kits will be delivered to the legislators. The Alliance will work together with HMA staff on the Distinguished Medical Reporting Awards banquet on Saturday, April 13 to create a gala, black-tie optional event.

For Action

- Council approved the following actions: the HMA Alliance's request to be registered as a non-profit organization with the Department of Commerce and Consumers Affairs, which enables them to utilize bulk mail rate postage.

- Appointed Drs David Fitz-Patrick and Eugene Magnier to the HMA Employees' Pension Committee and elected the HMA Finance Committee and their terms of office as follows: Drs A Kunimoto (4), M. Shirasu (3), S. Hundahl (2), P. Blanchette (1).

- Deferred action regarding any decision on the IPA venture between HMA and PMAG until March 1 after information is received from meetings.

Supported a physician-driven management service organization (MSO).

Recommended that the Legislative Committee discuss a Patient Protection Act for the 1997 legislative session with appropriate consultants.

- Approved the list of HAMPAC Board members, to include HMAA members Scott Carrothers, Shirley Robinson, and Cherlita Gutteling.

- Appointed Dr Lehman's nomination of Dr Reginald Ho to serve on the HMA Cancer Commission as HMA's representative for a 3-year term.

- Approved a plan whereby the Honolulu County Medical Society would contribute \$7,000 and HMA would assume the balance of the cost to combine the *HCMS Bulletin* and *HMA Newsletter* into one newsletter.

Component Society Reports

Kauai.—Dr T. Crane, President, reported a medical society meeting will be held on February 9 and Drs C. Lehman and T. Au have been invited to attend. The meeting will be a combined Valentine's Day celebration and Legislative Update and Information Seminar.

Honolulu.—Dr P. Blanchette, President, reported that the HCMS is

looking at streamlining the organization and eliminating potential redundancies. The Board members have begun to look at the AMA Federation recommendations on restructuring. The HCMS is already proposing focus groups of physicians who are in growing areas such as Mililani, Ewa Beach, Wahiawa and the Windward areas. Dr Scott Hundahl resigned as HCMS Councilor and Dr Blanchette has appointed Chiyo Fukino MD as his replacement.

East Hawaii.—Dr L. Sonoda-Fogel reported for President E. Bade that their county will be planning a meeting in March. The summer program that the county used to have will now be coordinated by the East Hawaii IPA.

West Hawaii.—Dr T. Smith, President, reported that the North Hawaii Community Hospital will be open in about a month and a half. Their society will set up a meeting with Dr Lehman, Mr Won, and others to discuss the IPA and restructuring. Their society will be holding meetings on legislative issues to address the many bills.

For Information

Definition of Emergency Services.—At the last Council meeting an issue was discussed regarding retroactive denials for non-emergent care other than an evaluation fee and directed the ER to refer patients to the patient's primary care physician. The implementation of such a plan has been deferred. An ad hoc committee of ER physicians has been appointed by the insurer to examine the dangers of triaging people out of the ER to a lower level of care without adequate work-up. Dr Holschuh will keep Council informed.

Medicaid Cutbacks Group.—Dr Holschuh reported he has been meeting with a group to look at cutbacks in Medicaid and block grants. They are also discussing the concept of eliminating individual physician disability determinations for the general assistance category and instead using a state panel of physicians to do the determinations.

SHPDA.—Dr Holschuh served on the task force established by the Legislature to evaluate the functions of the State Health Planning and Development Agency. A copy of his report was distributed at the Council meeting. Dr Holschuh supported and presented the AMA's position to the Task Force of voluntary community health planning with no mandate. Twenty of the 23 member task force wanted to keep SHPDA in its current form or with some streamlining, and it will sunset in 5 years.

DEA.—At the last Council meeting there was discussion on the inappropriate use of DEA numbers. Dr Holschuh wrote a letter to the AMA regarding the concern and Mike Vitek, Medical Director of OMSS of the AMA responded. The concern went through the AMA channels and the AMA has asked for another hearing with the DEA to discuss the issue.

MADD.—Dr Holschuh is serving on the MADD Committee which met at the HMA. The committee wants to work on the definition of probable cause.

Restructure Activities.—The AMA's Report of the Study of the Federation was sent to all the county society presidents. Some of the ideas may be used on the local level. Comments on the report will be sent to the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Distinguished Medical Reporting Awards Banquet.—The banquet is planned for Saturday, April 13 at The Ilikai Hotel. The HMA and HMA Alliance will work together on the gala event.

Medical Claims Conciliation Panel.—Dr Lehman reported there was concern about the panel not being active. Rodney Maile, Senior Hearings Officer sent HMA a letter confirming that the panel is functioning as usual. They are seeking physician volunteers to serve on the panel. This request will be placed in the next newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.